

Congressman Steve King made the following statement in response to comments by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), a member of the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, concerning the Fairness Doctrine. Rep. Eshoo said during a recent interview that she would be pushing for reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine during the 111th Congress.

“Allowing the government to regulate broadcast journalism and determine what on-air content is and is not ‘fair’ will take away our free speech and hurt our free flow of information. It is incredible that in today’s modern media age, where information is easily accessible in so many different forms, liberal Democrats want to squelch your First Amendment rights in favor of Chinese-style censorship. I will fight the re-implementation of the oxymoronically named Fairness Doctrine throughout the 111th Congress to ensure free and open political speech continues on America’s airwaves.”

Background:

Originally introduced in 1949, the Fairness Doctrine required radio and television stations to give equal time to conservative and liberal opinions on political issues. If stations failed to comply, they could face a penalty or have their broadcast licenses revoked. The Fairness Doctrine was eliminated in 1987.

Congressman King is a co-sponsor of the Broadcasters Freedom Act, which would keep the Federal Communications Commission from reinstituting the Fairness Doctrine.